

beyond their natural *tone*, but are also prick'd, perhaps, or corroded by the pungent and incongruous pores of the intruded liquor.

And this seems to be the reason, why *Aqua fortis*, and other *saline* liquors, if they come to touch the sensitive parts, as in a cut of the skin, or the like, do so violently and intollerably *excruciate* and torment the Patient. And 'tis not unlikely, but the Inventors of that Diabolical practice of poisoning the points of Arrows and Ponyards, might receive their first hint from some such Instance in natural contrivances, as this of the Nettle: for the ground why such poison'd weapons kill so infallibly as they do, seems no other then this of our Nettle's stinging; for the Ponyard or Dart makes a passage or entrance into the sensitive or vital parts of the body, whereby the contagious substance comes to be dissolv'd by, and mix'd with the fluid parts or humours of the body, and by that means spreads it self by degrees into the whole liquid part of the body, in the same manner, as a few grains of Salt, put into a great quantity of Water, will by degrees diffuse it self over the whole.

And this I take to be the reason of killing of Toads, Frogs, Efts, and several Fishes, by strewing Salt on their backs (which Experiment was shewn to the *Royal Society* by a very ingenious Gentleman, and a worthy Member of it) for those creatures having always a continual exudation, as it were, of slimy and watry parts, sweating out of the pores of their skin, the *saline* particles, by that means obtain a *vehicle*, which conveys them into the internal and vital parts of the body.

This seems also to be the reason why bathing in Mineral waters are such sovereign remedies for multitudes of distempers, especially chronical; for the liquid & warm *vehicles* of the Mineral particles, which are known to be in very considerable quantities in those healing baths, by the body's long stay in them, do by degrees steep and insinuate themselves into the pores and parts of the skin, and thereby those Mineral particles have their ways and passages open'd to penetrate into the inner parts, and mingle themselves with the *stagnant* juices of the several parts; besides, many of those offensive parts which were united with those *stagnant* juices, and which were contrary to the natural constitution of the parts, and so become irksome and painfull to the body, but could not be discharged, because Nature had made no provision for such accidental mischiefs, are, by means of this soaking, and filling the pores of the skin with a liquor, afforded a passage through that liquor that fills the pores into the ambient fluid, and thereby the body comes to be discharged.

So that 'tis very evident, there may be a good as well as an evil application of this Principle. And the ingenious Invention of that Excellent person, Doctor *Wren*, of injecting liquors into the veins of an Animal, seems to be reducible to this head: I cannot stay, nor is this a fit place, to mention the several Experiments made of this kind by the most incomparable Mr. *Boyle*, the multitudes made by the lately mention'd *Physician* Doctor *Clark*, the History whereof, as he has been pleas'd to communicate to the *Royal Society*, so he may perhaps be prevail'd with to make publique himself: But I shall rather hint, that certainly, if this Principle were

were well consider'd, there might, besides the further improving of Bathing and Syringing into the veins, be thought on several ways, whereby several obstinate distempers of a humane body, such as the Gout, Dropsie, Stone, &c. might be master'd, and expell'd; and good men might make as good a use of it, as evil men have made a perverse and Diabolical.

And that the filling of the pores of the skin with some fluid *vehicle*, is of no small efficacy towards the preparing a passage for several kinds of penetrant juices, and other dissoluble bodies, to insinuate themselves within the skin, and into the sensitive parts of the body, may be, I think, prov'd by an Instance given us by *Bellonius*, in the 26. Chapter of the second Book of his *Observations*, which containing a very remarkable Story I have here transcrib'd: *Cum Chamæleonis nigri radices* (says he) *apud Pagum quendam Livadochorio nuncupatum erui curavimus, plurimi Græci & Turcæ spectatum venerunt quid erueremus, eas vero frustulatim secabamus, & filo trajiciebamus ut facilius exsiccare possent. Turcæ in eo negotio occupatos nos videntes, similiter eas radices tractare & secare voluerunt: at cum summus esset aestus, & omnes sudore maderent, quicunque eam radicem manibus tractaverant sudoremque abstergerant, aut faciem digitis scalpserant, tantam pruriginem iis locis quos attigerant postea senserunt, ut aduri viderentur. Chamæleonis enim nigri radix ea virtute pollet, ut cuti applicata ipsam adeo inflammet, ut nec squilla, nec urtica ulla centesima parte ita adurent: At prurigo non adeo celeriter sese prodat. Post unam aut alteram porro horam, singuli variis faciei locis cutem adeo inflammatam habere capimus ut tota sanguinea videretur, atque quo magis eam confricabamus, tanto magis excitabatur prurigo. Fonti assidebamus sub platano, atque initio pro ludicro habebamus & ridebamus: at tandem illi plurimum indignati sunt, & nisi asseverassemus nunquam expertos tali virtute eam plantam pollere, hand dubie male nos multassent. Attamen nostra excusatio fuit ab illis facilius accepta, cum eodem incommodo nos affectos conspicerent. Mirum sane quod in tantillo radice tam ingentem efficaciam nostro malo experti sumus.*

By which observation of his, it seems manifest, that their being all cover'd with sweat who gather'd and cut this root of the black *Chameleon* Thistle, was the great reason why they suffer'd that inconvenience, for it seems the like circumstance had not been before that noted, nor do I find any mention of such a property belonging to this Vegetable in any of the *Herbals* I have at present by me.

I could give very many Observations which I have made of this kind, whereby I have found that the best way to get a body to be insinuated into the substance or insensible pores of another, is first, to find a fluid *vehicle* that has some congruity, both to the body to be insinuated, and to the body into whose pores you would have the other convey'd. And in this Principle lies the great mystery of staining several sorts of bodies, as Marble, Woods, Bones, &c. and of Dying Silks, Cloaths, Wools, Feathers, &c. But these being digressions, I shall proceed to:

Observ. XXVI. Of Cowage, and the itching operation of some bodies.

There is a certain Down of a Plant, brought from the *East-Indies*, call'd commonly, though very improperly, *Cow-itch*, the reason of which

X

mistake